

## **FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION**

### **Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Flathead County Fair Commission was called to order Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6:30pm in the 4H Building at the Fairgrounds, 265 N. Meridian Rd, Kalispell.

**Roll call of members:** Helen Keil, Mark Carlson, Doug Wise, Sam Nunnally, and Jessica Treweek present. Pam Holmquist was excused.

**Staff present:** Mark Campbell

**Guests present:** Sharon Askelson, Mary Davidson, Ryan Davidson, Scott Treweek, Chase Olson, Espen Erickson, Taften Erickson, Canen Erickson, Braidy Billington, Rhett Billington, Dylann Billington, Bailey Lake, Carol Olsen, KellySue Bain, Patience Bain, Peyton McQuade, Dan Mason, Sue Manson

**Agenda approval:** Doug Wise moved to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Mark Carlson. All in favor, motion approved.

**Past meeting minutes:** Previous meeting minutes have not been completed and will be ready for next month's meeting.

**Public Comment:** Dan Manson thanks the board for all they have done to put the Fair together and allowing the public to participate in all meetings leading up to the fair. Bailey Lake, on behalf of FFA, thanks the fair board and Mark Campbell for their leadership and the opportunity to participate in the fair this year. A 4H parent thanks the board for pulling through and putting the fair on. KellySue Bain, 4H Small Animal Superintendent, thanks the board for the opportunity to have a small animal meat pen sale. Shared that it was successful; three out of the four kids plan to participate again, and one is going to use their sale money towards the purchase of a hog for next year. Doug Wise congratulates everyone for putting forth their exhibits, on a record-breaking auction sale, and applauds them for their leadership and high standards set throughout the fair. Additional comments thanking the fair board for pulling it together and all the hard work put in were heard. Public comment closed by Sam Nunnally.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Fair Debriefing:** Mark Campbell asked for board and public comment regarding the fair; what their observations, experiences, ideas, and insights are on how the fair went. Gave kudos to fair staff for working hard and adjusting as the week went on; removal of components that brought back the feeling of an old fashioned fair and it was great to see everyone having a good time. Opens up the conversation for discussion.

Helen Keil: Everyone was having a great time and staff did a fabulous job; efficient, grounds and bathrooms were clean. No problems seen.

Mark Carlson: discussion about rearranging reserved seating row/number signage in Grandstands to make it more visible and easier for patrons to find their seats. Board and Mark Campbell agreed.

Doug Wise: many new experiences were learned this year. Needed to be fair to everybody and accomplished that with 100 percent results. Created minimal impact with maximum affect. Teamwork

September 17, 2020 FB Meeting

led to our success in conducting largest public event in the NW. He is really proud of what has been accomplished this year. Looking forward to normal next year.

Jessica Treweek: could feel the electricity in the air at start of rodeo. Doesn't know how to reproduce that. Bathroom standards were outstanding.

Sam Nunnally: the rodeo broadcast on Cowboy Channel was an excellent addition. Estimated 2.5 million viewers to-date. Consider better back scene views of cameras next year, inclusion of sponsorship opportunities from camera view. B Barn has character but needs to be added to long-term project list for better view. Arena layout 'flip' would be a great future set-up. MT Big Screen provided best camera views/work of any televised that Sam saw.

Ag Committee very much enjoyed and benefited from on-line auction. Wishing to proceed with on-line and live next year. A request for Montana Beef received from large on-line group which could take sales to possible new levels.

**New Business:** Mark provided a report of fair numbers, participation, and an overview of the many different events that occurred. Groundwork for 2021 was established during current planning along with hind-sights learned. Great support from County Finance and so many others to make it work.

Thank you notes received were shared with the Board including a \$25 contribution to the Fair.

**Committee or Director Reports:** No committee or member reports were heard.

**Manager's report:** Mark shared September updates focusing on events scheduled. Many County departments are scheduling "spaced" events at the fairgrounds due to size.

A discussion on the feral rabbits was held. KellySue shared they are diseased and are not compatible to be domesticated again. It is a valley wide issue needing dispatched. Live traps were suggested and 4H Rabbit program will assist.

August financial reports were shared along with a 3-year comparison break-down by account code.

Overall, a variance of (\$578,445) from budgeted revenues estimated ending June. COVID claims are being submitted at this time. An initial explanation of how this may be covered was provided.

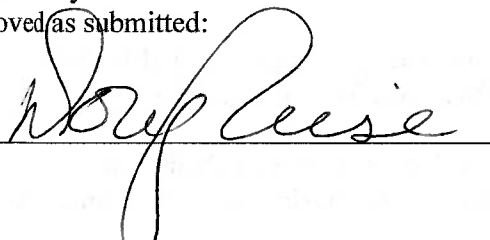
Posse report included issues dealing with drinking during Fair. Sam shared a historical background of alcohol issues, challenges, and how the formalized sales have resolved some of those issues.

**Additional Comments:** Sam extended appreciation from the Board to all who came this evening and their support shown throughout.

**Adjournment:** Doug Wise moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Seconded by Mark Carlson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Approved/as submitted:

  
Chair

11-5-20  
Date

September 17, 2020 FB Meeting